

REMARKS

Claims 1-51 are pending in this application. Claim 3 has been amended. Claims 14-49 have been canceled without prejudice. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C § 102:

Claims 1-13 and 50-51 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Suzuki (US 6,459,090).

Claims 1 and 50 recite, *inter alia*, an auxiliary strut formed on the non-pattern areas inside the membrane areas, the auxiliary strut dividing the membrane areas into a plurality of divided membrane areas and supporting each divided membrane area.

Applicants respectfully submit that Suzuki does not disclose the above-claimed feature.

Examiners states that “Figure 1(b) shows the reticle of the prior art, including a border area, main strut areas, and auxiliary”. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Suzuki does not disclose an auxiliary strut dividing the membrane areas into a plurality of divided membrane areas and supporting each divided membrane area.

Assuming that the Examiner refers struts (53) disclosed in Suzuki as auxiliary struts, the struts (53) cannot be auxiliary struts because the membrane area (52a) is not divided into a plurality of areas and is not supported by the struts (53). See e.g., Figs. 1(b) and 2(j) of Suzuki. In contrast, the struts (53) of Suzuki are main struts formed on the border area of the membrane. See e.g., Fig. 2(j) of Suzuki. Accordingly, Suzuki does not anticipate claims 1 and 50 of the present application.

Claims 2-13 depend from claim 1, and claim 51 depends from claim 50. These dependent claims include the elements of the respective independent claim and therefore are not anticipated by the cited reference for at least the reasons given above.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of claims 1-13 and 50-51 under 35 U.S.C § 102 (b) and claims 1-13 and 50-51 are in condition for allowance.

For the foregoing reasons, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. The Examiner's early and favorable action is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if he has any questions or comments in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,



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